

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-05 ERDA-07

PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 ( ISO ) W  
----- 013937

R 060725Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2690

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USINT BAGHDAD

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS KUWAIT 1499

VIENNA FOR USMISSION IAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG KU

SUBJECT: KUWAIT PEACEFUL ATOMIC ENERGY PROGRAM

1. KUWAIT'S MINISTER ELECTRICITY AND WATER ABDULLAH  
ALGHANIM HELD PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 2 IN WHICH HE MADE MOST  
FORTHRIGHT PUBLIC STATEMENT YET OF GOK'S INTENTION TO ESTABLISH  
NUCLEAR PLANTS HERE BOTH FOR ELECTRIC POWER AND WATER DESALTING  
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PURPOSES. HE STRESSED GOK INTENTION TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER

COUNTRIES IN REGION, AND HE INDICATED CONTACTS UNDERWAY WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES.

2. ALGHANIM SAID PRELIMINARY CONTACTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH BAHRAIN AND SAUDI ARABIA FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AND NUCLEAR POWER WATER DISTILLATION PLANT. HE NOTED COOPERATION IN THIS AREA WAS ONE OF TOPICS DISCUSSED RECENTLY WHEN KUWAIT CROWN PRINCE/PRIME MINISTER JABER AL-AHMAD VISITED SAUDI ARABIA. ALGHANIM ALSO REFERRED TO CONSULTATIONS WITH COUNTERPARTS IN US, CANADA AND EUROPE AS WELL AS WITH OFFICIALS IN ARAB COUNTRIES, PAKISTAN AND INDIA. HE SAID DR. MUNIR KHAN OF PAKISTAN AEC AND DR. MARCHALL, DESCRIBED AS A LEADING BRITISH NUCLEAR EXPERT, WILL BE VISITING KUWAIT LATER THIS MONTH FOR TALKS. CHAIRMAN INDIAN AEC ALSO EXPECTED VISIT KUWAIT. GOK HAS INVITED IRANIAN ENERGY MINISTER TO VISIT BUT SO FAR HAS NOT RECEIVED REPLY.

3. NOTING KUWAITI MEMBERSHIP IN IAEA, ALGHANIM STRESSED GOK'S PEACEFUL PURPOSES IN PURSUING NUCLEAR ROUTE. HE SAID GOVERNMENT STUDIES INDICATE THAT LOCAL ENERGY SOURCES, I.E., GAS, LIKELY TO BE INSUFFICIENT TO MEET KUWAIT'S NEEDS IN FUTURE. GOK THINKS NUCLEAR ENERGY COULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY CHEAPER FOR POWER GENERATION THAN ALTERNATIVES. ALGHANIM DISCOUNTED POLLUTION PROBLEMS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AS BEING MANAGEABLE. HE INDICATED GOK INTEREST IN TRAINING KUWAITIS IN NUCLEAR ENERGY.

4. IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ALGHANIM SAID GOK NOT CONCERNED OVER IRAN'S PLANS TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR ENERGY ON LARGE SCALE. HE SAID ALL COUNTRIES IN REGION VERY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING NUCLEAR ENERGY TO SATISFY THEIR POWER NEEDS IN FUTURE.

5. COMMENT BY SEPTTEL (NOTAL).  
STOLTZFUS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D750119-0366  
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